elephantiasis, an enquiry into which would yield very useful and scientific data. Again, it was the opinion of competent authorities that tuberculosis was very common in the town. If an endeavour was made to go into the conditions and surroundings under which diseases like the tuberculosis and elephantiasis throve, possibly remedial measures could be found out to stop their spread and even to extirpate them altogether. The forests had imbedded in them quite a wealth of economic products and if sufficient scientific attention was given to their development, the country would be the better and richer. The Agricultural Department too could be made to turn out better and more useful results. There was, no doubt, a laboratory attached to the office of the Director. But the work done was not commensurate with the demand or the maximum benefit expected to accrue from it, because the necessary conveniences were not given to the department for research work on any desirable scale. The country was undoubtedly grateful to Government for the liberal provision made in the current year's budget, but what was important was that the amount should be fully utilised for the purposes intended. The Member read an extract from an article in the *Modern Review* describing the nature of the scientific work in research carried on in America and urged similar steps being taken in Travancore also. In regard to the Geological Department also, the information of the Member was that a good deal more could be done, if the State Geologist had been placed in a better position in respect of his laboratory and other equipments. If, with a view to carry on research work of the kind indicated above, a Central Laboratory were instituted, the economic salvation of the country could be assured. Perhaps a sum ranging between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 60,000 would be enough to start a Laboratory, if it could be attached to the College Laboratory.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

140. Extension of the Railway to South Travancore.

Mr. Ramasuppu Sivathanu Chettiar (Member, Trading Classes, Kottar) prayed for the extension of the railway to Aramboli frontier and submitted that, as the Trivandrum-Quilon line was paying, the line proposed by him would be equally profitable. It was highly necessary in view to develop trade and agriculture.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

141. Suggestions for increasing the benefits derived from the railway extension to Trivandrum.

Mr. S. Ganapathi Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) explained the difficulties and hardships the people were put to on account of the present railway station being situated at Chakay and said that the bandy hire paid by passengers to get to the station from different parts of the town was itself unbearable. He requested that the line might be extended as far as Karamanai or Chalai, so as to bring the heart of the town under the benefits of the railway. He also complained of the difficulties in securing tickets from the Trivandrum station.

Dewan's reply.—The Government are in communication with the Railway authorities on the subject of affording increased facilities to passengers. The other points are noted.

142. Extension of the Trivandrum—Quilon Railway to Alwaye.

Mr. K. K. Thomas B. A. & B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that the subject of his representation affected all classes of His Highness' subjects. When a few years ago the matter was mooted, it was considered premature and it was thought desirable to await the working of the Trivandrum-Quilon line which was then in course of construction. Now that that line had become a successful one, the time had come for further consideration of the subject. It was not necessary to enumerate the advantages of railway communications in Travancore. The physical configuration of the country, its progress and enlightenment, the growth of civic activities such as newspapers, printing houses, the growth of popular institutions, increase of trade and commerce and development of agriculture were among other factors contributory to the well ordered progress of the State. The contact of the people with Cochin and other parts of British India on the west coast was becoming closer on account of the

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already existing Railway system. Under the circumstances what was required was an extension of the line from Quilon or Kottarakarai right through the heart of Central and North Travancore as far as Alwaye. The line could thus go up to the Mangalore line. It had been a subject of complaint that North Travancore had not sufficient means of communication. If the proposed line were sanctioned, that would remove the complaint on that score. If a serious economic contingency like the recent Muvattupuzha famine were to recur, the railway would be of great use. The travelling allowance to officers could perhaps be curtailed. The Member's estimate was Rs. 75,000 per mile, the whole length being 100 miles. Under the present rate of exchange the cost would be 75 lakhs, if the work were begun now. Even if a company were floated, capital would easily flow, provided Government stepped in with its guarantee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

143. Suggestions for the improvement of the Public Service.

Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, Quilon taluk) observed that the subject of his representation had already been discussed at several Sessions of the Assembly, which only showed how important it was. He then complained of the difficulty experienced by the Assembly Members in getting reliable statistics and said that the public should be furnished with copies of departmental reports too. Taking finances first, the policy of Government should be to ensure a steady and recurring source of income. Expenditure should be so regulated as to keep it well within income. Any surplus that might remain should not be allowed to accumulate, but should be invested on reproductive works of utility to the people. It should be the aim of the State to tap all sources of income. Following that principle, the rubber tree should be taxed. Income-tax should be imposed, as that alone would bring the non-agricultural classes, such as merchants, under a well-regulated system of taxation.

Of late the educational policy of Government had been unsteady. In effect the expenditure had been on the increase every year and schools had come into existence for every two square miles. Apart from the financial aspect of the ever-growing expenditure, there was the question of finding employment for the young men turned out of the various schools every year. It was a serious problem for Government to solve. Under the circumstances it was a matter of gratification that a vocational side had been introduced in some schools. But the progress made was not satisfactory. More substantial work should be done with a view to avert unemployment. The need of the hour was food and the educational curricula should be so adjusted as to make every young man earn his own bread and thus make the country self-sufficient in the matter of its food supply.

The policy of retrenchment in the P. W. D. was, no doubt, commendable. But the curtailment should be under establishment charges and not in works as had turned out now. The establishment charges amounted to as much as 25 per cent. of the departmental grant.

Taking the Department of Industries, the Member stated that it had not been productive of as much benefit as was expected, though it had been in existence for three years. The Director of Industries must possess a fair knowledge of pure and applied sciences and know enough Vernacular to enable him to move among the people and acquaint himself with the ways and habits of life of the people.

The forest policy had not been above criticism and it seemed to vary with the departmental head. The complaints of the people for the past 5 or 6 years were chiefly directed against the Conservator. After pointing out some of the defects in the methods of forest administration by the late Conservator, the Member submitted that the development of the forests should be on scientific lines.

The Police Department too should be reorganised. The partial abolition of Circle Inspectors had yielded very good results and it was time that the reform was extended to the other parts of the State. If, on the other hand, it was thought that the Circle Inspectors should be maintained, it should be distinctly laid down that

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